



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WIGTON

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1 9 5 7



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

I. S. JONES                    M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health,  
also Assistant County Medical Officer  
and Medical Officer of Health to  
Penrith Urban District Council.

R. C. BLACKBURN            Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and  
S.I.E.J.B., Certificate in Meat and Food  
Inspection R.S.A. (Scot.),  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

S. W. COULING              Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and  
S.I.E.J.B., Meat Inspectors Certificates  
of the R.S.I. and Liverpool University  
School of Hygiene, Smoke Inspectors  
Certificates R.S.I. and Liverpool University  
School of Hygiene, Certificate R.S.I. for  
Sanitary Science as applied to Public Works  
and Buildings, Associate Members Certificate  
Institute of Sanitary Engineers.  
Additional Public Health Inspector.  
Resigned: 17th November, 1959.

F. E. HAMMOND              Clerk-Typist.



July, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Wigton Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report on the Health of the District for the year 1957.

The Birth Rate and Death Rate compare favourably with the national rates.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows an increase from 30.3 in 1956 to the present rate of 30.9. You will notice that this is higher than the national rate of 23.0. Actually there were two more infant deaths than in the previous year.

Maternal Mortality: We have not had a maternal death in the Wigton Rural District since 1949. I think this speaks volumes for the midwifery service in the area.

Infectious Diseases: Whooping cough and measles were more prevalent than in the previous year. It is pleasing to report that we have had no diphtheria in our district during the past nine years.

Polio vaccination is now well under way and I sincerely hope this will be as successful as diphtheria immunisation has proved to be.

I wish to draw attention to the Report of the Water Engineer. The emphasis appears to be on the short-comings of the area, but the fact of considerable progress should not be lost sight of, and this progress continues. I think it is almost certain that Wigton will have a good supply of wholesome water before the end of the current year.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and to the Council generally for their continued support throughout another year, also to the staff of the Health Department and of other Departments for their willing co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. SPEDDING JONES

Medical Officer of Health.



## GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of District in acres.....	138,620
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population....	23,290
Population at Census of 1931.....	22,058
"    "    "    "    1951.....	23,733
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1957) according to rate books.....	7,042
Rateable Value.....	£217,483
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£850

## POPULATION:

The Registrar-General's estimate of resident population for 1957 of 23,290 shows a decrease of 130 on the previous year.

The following table gives the estimated population for the last ten years.

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Registrar-General's estimated population</u>	
1948	22,920	Civilian population
1949	24,090	Civilian & Service population
1950	24,160	ditto.
1951	23,760	ditto.
1952	23,510	ditto.
1953	23,410	ditto.
1954	23,510	ditto.
1955	23,450	ditto.
1956	23,420	ditto.
1957	23,290	ditto.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT:

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.....	214	192	406
Illegitimate.....	9	6	15
Total live births.....	223	198	421

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated  
resident population - 17.43

### Still Births:

Legitimate.....	3	5	8
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-
Total still births.....	3	5	8

Rate per 1,000 (live and  
still births) - 18.65

### Deaths:

All causes.....	147	131	278
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Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated  
resident population - 11.94



Deaths from Puerperal Causes.....nil  
Deaths from other Maternal Causes.....nil  
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....43  
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....nil  
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)..... 1  
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age).....nil

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

All infants per 1,000 live births.....30.88  
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....32.02  
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births..nil

The following table gives particulars of infant deaths during the year 1957. Nine of these died in hospital and four died at home. In 1956, eleven infant deaths were recorded.

Cause	0-24 hours	2-5 days	1 month	2 months	3 months	Total
Prematurity.....	2	2	-	-	-	4
Broncho pneumonia) Whooping cough ).....	-	-	1	-	-	1
Pyogenic meningitis....	-	-	-	-	1	1
Haemolytic disease of new born.....	1	-	-	-	-	1
Atelectasis) Prematurity).....	2	-	-	-	-	2
Congenital malformation (spinal meningocele)..	-	-	-	1	-	1
Congenital malformation (spina bifida).....	1	-	-	1	-	2
Congenital heart defect.....	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	6	2	1	3	1	13

TABLE SHOWING THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR  
ENGLAND AND WALES AS A WHOLE, AND CERTAIN GROUPS  
IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, FOR THE YEAR 1957:

	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales.....	16.1	11.5	23.0
Administrative County of Cumberland.....	17.9	12.1	26.4
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven)..	18.8	12.2	25.8
Rural Districts of Cumberland.....	17.3	12.1	26.8
RURAL DISTRICT OF WIGTON.....	17.4	11.9	30.9



The following table shows the birth rate, death rate and infantile mortality rate during the past ten years :-

Year:	Birth Rate per 1,000 population:	Death Rate per 1,000 population:	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1948	20.07	11.86	32.61
1949	18.48	12.13	37.65
1950	17.09	11.29	24.21
1951	16.90	13.47	37.31
1952	18.63	11.86	22.37
1953	17.64	12.94	21.78
1954	16.59	11.44	38.46
1955	17.99	12.02	23.69
1956	15.50	12.55	30.30
1957	17.43	11.94	30.88

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY:

There were no maternal deaths during 1957.

The following table gives the maternal mortality rate for the last ten years :-

Year	No. of births (live and still):	Deaths:	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:
1948	477	nil	nil
1949	433	2	4.61
1950	423	nil	nil
1951	414	nil	nil
1952	447	nil	nil
1953	413	nil	nil
1954	399	nil	nil
1955	433	nil	nil
1956	372	nil	nil
1957	429	nil	nil



## WATER:

I wish to thank Mr. J.R.Watters, the Water Engineer for the following report :-

### "Schedule of Parish Water Supplies - Year 1957:

Parish	Dwelling Houses Existing	Population Estimated	Dwelling Houses Supplied	Population Supplied
Aspatria.....	1,008	3,527	1,008	3,527
Allhallows .....	211	739	208	730
Allonby.....	201	704	200	700
Aikton.....	131	458	131	458
Boltons.....	187	655	159	557
Bromfield.....	183	641	172	602
Bowness.....	427	1,495	423	1,481
Caldbeck.....	247	865	163	569
Dundraw.....	49	172	49	172
Holme St. Cuthbert	145	508	144	504
Holme Abbey.....	218	764	214	751
Holme East Waver..	92	322	89	311
Holme Low.....	112	393	111	389
Hayton.....	67	235	66	230
Ireby.....	169	592	126	441
Kirkbride.....	143	500	142	497
Kirkbampton.....	99	346	92	321
Silloth.....	986	3,451	986	3,451
Sebergham.....	110	384	98	342
Thursby.....	248	868	247	865
Torpenhow.....	175	612	164	574
Wigton.....	1,368	4,787	1,366	4,781
Waverton.....	106	370	95	333
Westward.....	222	776	187	655
Woodside.....	182	637	181	632
Westnewton.....	74	259	74	259
Total	7,160	25,060	6,895	24,132

The above figures include a number of holiday chalets and other temporary dwellings which are rated in Camp Fields.

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Water supplies throughout 1957 have been generally well maintained, and further improvement is being effected as the new mainlaying schemes very slowly advance towards completion.

Several parishes, however, are suffering from moderate to acute shortage and need serious consideration.

Caldbeck parish has two contaminated schemes which give a domestic supply to the villages of Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket, the latter of which may be lost at any moment owing to the working of barytes mines at the source.



An extensive agricultural area in the parish is dependent on any supply which can be found in drains or ditches, and development of agricultural production is restricted.

Torpenhow parish lies at the terminus of the small Ireby scheme, and high altitude farms are always on intermittent supply.

The parishes of Bromfield, Dundraw, and three of the Holme parishes are on intermittent supply, and in addition to inconvenience to domestic consumers, the supply for milk production is restricted.

Plans for the improvement of supplies in the above parishes are being considered by the County Council and the Ministry, and it is hoped that approval will be given without delay, as temporary augmentation of these supplies is impossible.

Wigton town is still supplied from its old source which is unsatisfactory in quantity and quality.

New mains are being laid in Stage 3 scheme to provide a supply of treated water for the town, but water will not be available until the extension of the filtration plant is completed in 1958.

The village of Boltongate and the hamlet of Sandale, lying within two miles of the Filter Works, are without any satisfactory water supply, and being in Stage 5 of the Development Scheme, it seems likely that their primitive amenities must continue for many years.

The major works contained in the Council's Development Scheme are moving towards completion and very considerable benefit has been derived from them.

New, or augmented supplies to the parishes listed above are no less urgent, and their claims should be given serious consideration.

(sgd.) J.R.WATTERS.  
Water Engineer"

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:

Wigton Town Sewerage Scheme: In my last report I expressed the view that this scheme might be completed by the end of the summer of 1957. In fact it has just been completed at the time of writing this report.

Greenrow Pumping Station and Pollution of Sneckyeat Beck: The installation of the new pumps at Greenrow is virtually complete at the time of writing. There still remains the problem of diverting sullage water from Golf Terrace, Prospect Place, Beaconsfield Terrace and Blitterlees into the new system, after which no pollution of Sneckyeat Beck should fall to the responsibility of this Council.



Oulton Sewerage Scheme: In my last report I mentioned the possibility of this scheme commencing. I am pleased to say that work is now progressing.

### SCHOOLS:

All schools in the area were inspected during the year. I am unable to report any material progress in school sanitation. We have several schools still without a waterborne system, which is to be regretted.

The first instalment of the new Abbeytown school came into operation in May, 1957. This is a new building in marked contrast to the old. The new Thursby School was occupied during 1957 and the old school is being used as a dining centre instead of the old Church Institute.

The old canteen and kitchen at Fletchertown which did not comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations are no longer used for the preparation and cooking of meals. The premises are still used as a dining centre only and the cooked meals are sent from a central kitchen.

Most of the schools in the area now have hot running water available for hand washing. This is a very good thing and should help to minimise the risk of infection. There is one feature of hand washing in schools which I dislike namely the old fashioned roller towel method. In 1956 when poliomyelitis was prevalent in west Cumberland paper towels were supplied to the schools ad lib in an effort to stem the spread of poliomyelitis. When the scare subsided the County authority resorted to the old method. I look forward to the day when this old fashioned method will be a thing of the past and modern means of hand drying will become commonplace. Factories extensively use these modern methods, and I see no reason why our school children should not enjoy similar benefits.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47: NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951:

It was my unpleasant task to exercise authority under the above section of the National Assistance Act to ensure the removal of an old lady from Port Carlisle to an institution where she could receive proper care and attention. Unfortunately in this case it was necessary to seek an Order from the Court.



# HOUSING:

The following table shows the houses built in the area by The North Eastern Housing Association Limited, since 1939 :-

Site	1939	1940	1944	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Wigton																337
Brindlefield	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Brackenlands	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Kirkland Ave	-	-	-	-	42	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Western Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	42	18	6	8	50	
Cross Lane..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	
Aspatia																203
Noble Croft.	-	57	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
North View..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	46	8	16	2	-	-	-	
Agric. houses	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Newton Arlosh	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	10
West Silloth.	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	10	56	-	26	2	2	19	-	150
Kirkbride....	-	-	-	-	-	2	18	2	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	28
Thursby.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
Torpenhow....	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Uldale.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Abbeytown....	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	22	38	-	-	-	70
Allonby.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	6	-	-	4	-	-	-	22
Ireby.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Blennerhasset	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Hayton.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Drumburgh....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Westnewton...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Kirkbampton..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Aikton.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Fletchertown.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	6
Glasson.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	6
Waverton.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Oulton.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	6
Totals.....	98	57	12	14	56	50	54	110	108	68	110	86	22	31	50	926

From 1939 to 1956 one hundred and forty-nine houses were built by private enterprise.

In addition sixteen private dwellinghouses were completed during the year.



## SLUM CLEARANCE:

No large scale activity was carried on during the year under review, in accordance with the Council's policy, but eleven individual houses were represented as being unfit. In a further twenty cases action was finalised which had been commenced in a previous year.

The following table gives particulars of the action taken by the Council :-

### Demolition Orders:

	Tarnrigg Moor, Oulton.....(not demolished)	1	
x	Two cottages at Oughterby.....(not demolished)	2	
x	10, Meetinghouse Lane, Wigton.(not demolished)	<u>1</u>	4

### Closing Orders (Section 12, Housing Act, 1936):

x	Moot Hall Cottage, Ireby.....		1
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### Closing Orders (Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953):

	17, Station Road, Wigton.....	1	
	Dove Cottage, Back Esk Street, Silloth.....	1	
	9, Water Street, Wigton.....	1	
	Calebreck Farm, Hesket Newmarket.....	1	
x	19, Station Road, Wigton.....	1	
x	9, Bolton-low-houses, Wigton.....	1	
x	11, Longthwaite Road, Wigton.....	1	
x	Cottage at Pelutho.....	<u>1</u>	8

### Undertakings:

	Rose Cottage, Fingland.....	1	
	Holmeleigh, Bowness-on-Solway.....	1	
	Hailforth Cottage, Mawbray.....	1	
x	Stampery, Wigton.....	7	
x	47, Union Street, Wigton.....	1	
x	10, Longthwaite Road, Wigton.....	1	
x	12, Longthwaite Road, Wigton.....	1	
x	West Cottage, Bowness-on-Solway.....	1	
x	3, Tenters, Wigton.....	<u>1</u>	15

### Carried forward:

	St. Nicholas Cottages, Bowness-on-Solway.....	2	
	Moss Side Farm, Kirkbride.....	<u>1</u>	3
			<u>31</u>

x Denotes action commenced in a previous year.



On the question of housing for elderly persons I think it is regrettable that two-bedroom bungalows are not recognised for grant purposes by the Ministry. The one-bedroom dwelling is probably all right when there is no illness to contend with but when illness does arise it is most desirable that a second bedroom be available.

### OVERCROWDING

The following comparative table shows the position regarding overcrowding throughout the area :-

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	84	53	45	58	21	25	17	10	9	4
No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	20	13	8	27	1	13	2	5	4	1
No. of cases of overcrowding re- lieved during the year.....	21	44	16	14	38	9	10	12	5	4

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955:

Most of the food premises in the area have been inspected and many re-visits have been carried out. The response by the trade has been quite good and a great deal of work has been carried out to improve existing premises to bring them up to the required standard.

You will remember that Mr. Blackburn gave a full report to the Council on the condition of school canteens and dining centres throughout the area. This was transmitted by the Council to the County Education Authority. Unfortunately remedial action has been very slow and there still remains a considerable amount of work to be done to implement the intentions of the Act.

I wish to thank Mr. A. Garratt, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cumberland County Council, for the following report on the number of samples taken in the area during the year 1957:-



MILK		OTHER THAN MILK		TOTAL SAMPLES
Genuine	Not Genuine	Genuine	Not Genuine	
43	9	26	nil	78

Schedule of Articles Sampled (other than milk)

Apple Squares	Margarine With Butter
Blackcurrant Jam	Milk Chocolate Fruit
Butter Scotch	Cocktails
Cheese Spread	Minced Beef with Peas
Cream of Tomato Soup	Meat Pies (2)
Custard Powder	Meat Paste
Evaporated Milk	Orange Crush
Ginger Wine Essence	Pork Sausage
Ice Cream (3)	Pickled Beetroot
Jelly	Semolina
Kooloze	Split Peas
Lime Syrup	Tinned Cherries.

Unsatisfactory Samples

Five of the unsatisfactory milk samples were only slightly below standard and further samples taken later were found to be satisfactory.

The remaining four unsatisfactory milk samples were from the same source of supply and consisted of two original and two "appeal to cow" samples. As a result of the latter samples being below standard, the farmer concerned was advised to consult the Advisory Department of the Cumberland Agricultural Committee with a view to improving the general quality of the milk produced by his herd.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

The following table shows the number of cases notified (other than tuberculosis) during the year :-

Disease	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25 & over	Total	Deaths
Scarlet Fever.....	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough.....	14	73	53	1	3	144	1
Measles.....	13	186	226	4	5	434	-
Pneumonia.....	-	1	-	-	8	9	2
Erysipelas.....	-	-	-	-	3	3	-
Pyogenic Meningitis.	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Meningococcal do. .	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia...	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Totals.....	28	262	279	5	21	595	4



Influenza: Although we are used to influenza epidemics every winter the 1957 one was worldwide and spread with alarming rapidity. In the Wigton area some fifty per cent of the school children were affected and thirty per cent of the adult population had attacks of varying severity. According to the Registrar General's figures seven persons died from influenza in our area in 1957. As a matter of interest I give below the number of deaths from influenza in the Wigton Rural District for the last five years :-

1953.....	5
1954.....	nil
1955.....	3
1956.....	1
1957.....	7

Pneumonia: Pneumonia accounted for two deaths during the year. This compares with seven the previous year.

Measles: There was quite an epidemic of measles, 434 cases being notified. Fortunately there were no deaths recorded.

Whooping Cough: One hundred and forty-four cases of whooping cough were notified during the year. For the first time for many years a death is recorded from this cause. The patient was an infant of a month old and he developed pneumonia along with his whooping cough and this was the cause of death.

Meningitis: One child aged two was notified as suffering from meningococcal meningitis and made a complete recovery. Another child where the organism was not identified died from pyogenic meningitis.

Food Poisoning: We had one case of suspected food poisoning, which proved fatal. The patient was an adult of 46 years. The causative organism was salmonella typhoid murium. Although full investigation was made no article of food was suspected of causing this infection. This type of infection is not usually very severe and very rarely fatal but this man unfortunately had had a partial gastrectomy some years before which may have been a contributory factor to his death.

Poliomyelitis: No cases of this disease occurred during the year.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination: Vaccination against poliomyelitis was commenced at the end of 1956. The position on the 31st December, 1957 in the Wigton area was that there were 3,680 children registered for vaccination and 213 had been completely vaccinated. These figures are obviously very disappointing but I am pleased to report that since the end of the year rapid progress has been made. After all one cannot vaccinate without the necessary material, and this, and this alone, accounts for the poor progress in the year under review.



Diphtheria: This is the ninth successive year we have been free from diphtheria in our area. Throughout the whole country only 53 cases were notified in 1956, with eight deaths.

Below is given the number of children who were innoculated during 1957, with comparative figures for 1956 :-

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Primary immunisations.....	292	374
Booster or reinforcing doses.....	584	631

Of the primary innoculations the total for 1957 includes 208 given by General Practitioners and sixteen of the booster doses were also given by General Practitioners.

It will be seen that most primary innoculations for diphtheria are now done by the general practitioner. I think the reason for this is that they are generally using the combined prophylactic which gives protection against both diphtheria and whooping cough, and in some cases against tetanus as well. These combined prophylactics certainly reduce the number of injections a child has to have to protect it, but up to the present the Ministry of Health has not viewed favourably the use of the combined method.

#### TUBERCULOSIS:

The following table gives particulars of cases notified and of the deaths during 1957 :-

Age  Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15.....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-25.....	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
25-35.....	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45.....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45-55.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65.....	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	4	7	2	2	-	-	-	-

In addition to the fifteen new cases there were nine cases added to the register as inward transfers from other areas. Nine cases left the district and four recovered.



The following table gives the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1957 :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary.....	83	83	166
Non-pulmonary.....	8	18	26
All forms of Tuberculosis.....	91	101	192

Below is a table giving the number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis in the area during the last ten years:-

Year	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1948	3	6	-	2	11
1949	4	5	1	-	10
1950	4	5	1	-	10
1951	2	2	-	-	4
1952	1	1	-	1	3
1953	-	2	-	-	2
1954	2	-	-	-	2
1955	1	-	-	-	1
1956	-	-	-	-	-
1957	-	-	-	-	-

It is very disappointing that out of a population of 23,290 only 3,075 took advantage of the mass radiography service.

Deaths from tuberculosis continue to fall each year, and a comparison with ten years ago shows a remarkable improvement. I feel if more people submitted themselves to X-ray examination even greater strides would be made in the eradication of this scourge. For instance I know of several cases of elderly people, thought to have bronchial trouble, who have transmitted tuberculosis to their grandchildren. If the truth were known, there may be many such examples where the disease is unwittingly transmitted to younger generations by relatives who do not suspect their real condition.

One such case I recall concerned an elderly gentleman who very kindly acted as baby-sitter for a young couple. I saw the infant when it was six weeks old and it was found to have pulmonary tuberculosis. On checking the contacts the elderly gentleman was found to have advanced tuberculosis although he never suspected this himself, thinking his complaint to be bronchitis.

As a point of interest it is worthy of note that the experts on radiation agree there is no danger in having an annual X-ray of the chest.



PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS: B.C.G. vaccination was again carried out throughout the county. The following tables give the work done in the Wigton Rural District.

SCHEME OF B.C.G. VACCINATION FOR 13-14 YEAR AGE GROUP. MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY

School	Children in 1943 age group	Children in 1943 age group who had Mass Radiography Report	Consents given for B.C.G. vaccination	Number of those with satisfactory Mass Radiography Report	Number of those with unsatisfactory Mass Radiography Report and called for Large Film	
					Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Silloth.....	59	55	53	54	1	-
Wigton Sec. Mod.	136	111	70	109	1	1
Wigton Grammar..	93	67	69	66	1	-
Wigton R.C.....	17	15	12	14	1	-
Bowness.....	11	10	8	10	-	-
Aspatria.....	22	22	16	19	3	-
Bromfield.....	3	2	3	2	-	-
Westnewton.....	2	1	2	1	-	-
Alhallowes.....	6	5	6	5	-	-
Blennerhasset...	6	6	5	-	1	-
Torpenhow.....	2	-	2	-	-	-
Friends, Wigton.	41	-	28	-	-	-
St. Ursula's, do.	15	-	12	-	-	-
Totals.....	413	294	286	280	8	1



RESULTS OF B.C.G. VACCINATION FOR 13-14 YEAR AGE GROUP.

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY OF CHILDREN

WHOSE PARENTS RETURNED CONSENT FORMS FOR MANTOUX TESTING  
AND B.C.G. VACCINATION IF NECESSARY.

School	No. of children Mantoux tested	No. of those with satisfactory M.M.R.	No. of those with unsatisfactory M.M.R.	No. who did not have M.M.R.
Silloth .....	52	48	-	4
Wigton Sec. Mod.	69	54	-	15
Wigton Grammar .	69	50	-	19
Wigton R.C. ....	11	11	-	-
Bowness .....	8	8	-	-
Aspatia .....	16	15	-	1
Bromfield .....	3	2	-	1
Westnewton .....	2	1	-	1
Allhallows .....	6	5	-	1
Blennerhasset ..	5	5	-	-
Torpenhow .....	2	-	-	2
Friends, Wigton	4	-	-	4
St.Ursula's, "	12	-	-	12
Totals	259	199	-	60

RESULTS OF MANTOUX TESTING AND B.C.G. VACCINATION  
FOR CHILDREN IN 13/14 YEAR AGE GROUP (1943)

School	No. of children Mantoux tested	No. absent after first Mantoux test	No. found to be Mantoux positive	No. found to be Mantoux negative	No. given B.C.G. vaccination
Silloth.....	52	-	15	37	37
Wigton Sec. Mod.	69	-	13	56	56
Wigton Grammar..	69	1	16	52	52
Wigton R.C.....	11	-	-	11	11
Bowness.....	8	1	3	4	4
Aspatia.....	16	-	4	12	12
Bromfield.....	3	-	1	2	2
Westnewton.....	2	-	1	1	1
Allhallows.....	6	-	1	5	5
Torpenhow.....	2	-	1	1	1
Blennerhasset...	5	-	5	-	-
Friends, Wigton.	4	-	2	2	2
St.Ursula's, " .	12	-	2	10	10
Totals	259	2	64	193	193



## CANCER

Deaths from cancer are increasing. In 1946, 77,500 people died from cancer; in 1957, 94,000 died from this cause. Of the 94,000 deaths 19,108 were due to cancer of the lung. It will be noted that cancer of the lung accounts for just rather less than one-quarter of the national total.

The following table gives the number of deaths from cancer in the Wigton Rural District since 1950 :-

1950	-	19 deaths including 2 cancer of the lung.
1951	-	41 deaths including 5 cancer of the lung.
1952	-	34 deaths including 8 cancer of the lung.
1953	-	36 deaths including 2 cancer of the lung.
1954	-	40 deaths including 5 cancer of the lung.
1955	-	45 deaths including 4 cancer of the lung.
1956	-	44 deaths including 3 cancer of the lung.
1957	-	43 deaths including 3 cancer of the lung.

Great interest has been shown in the relatively high mortality from lung cancer and this quotation from the Annual Report on the State of the Public Health issued by the Ministry of Health for 1956 may be of interest.

"Search for the cause or causes of this continuing and increasing mortality from lung cancer is intensive and world-wide. Certain occupations have been shown to carry a higher than normal risk of developing lung cancer, and for five such occupations at least, the incriminating evidence is accepted. The five are the mining of radio-active ores, the refining of nickel, the manufacture of asbestos, of chromates and of coal gas. These occupational lung tumours though highly important aetiologically represent a small fraction of the total, and for the rest, tobacco smoking and air pollution are the two main factors against which there would appear to be a certain weight of evidence; particularly against tobacco smoking in the form of cigarettes. The Government have undertaken to see that the public are kept informed about this relationship."



# CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 1957:

		M	F	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other ...	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease ...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria ...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough... ...	1	-	1
6.	Meningococcal infections ...	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-
8.	Measles ...	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	6	3	9
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	12	15	27
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	1	-	1
16.	Diabetes ...	1	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	21	39
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	36	20	56
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	3	5
20.	Other heart disease ...	21	31	52
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	2	1	3
22.	Influenza ...	6	1	7
23.	Pneumonia ...	2	2	4
24.	Bronchitis ...	3	4	7
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	2	4
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis... ...	1	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate... ...	2	-	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations ...	2	3	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	17	32
33.	Motor vehicle accidents... ...	2	-	2
34.	All other accidents ...	5	1	6
35.	Suicide ...	1	-	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war ...	-	-	-
	All causes ...	147	131	278



# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

## Part I of the Act

### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health:

Premises	Number on Register	Inspection	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	7	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	85	16	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Totals .....	92	16	-	-

### 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding .....	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature .....	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation .....	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage to floors .....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective .....	3	3	-	3	-
(c) not separate for sexes .....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) .....	-	-	-	-	-
Totals .....	3	3	-	3	-



PORT OF SILLOTH

I wish to thank Mr. A. Dodge, H.M. Customs & Excise Officer,  
for the following particulars :-

STATEMENT OF TRADE FOR THE YEAR 1957

Arrivals:	No. of ships:	Nature of Cargoes:
From foreign ports with cargo	61 <sup>x</sup>	Scrap Ingot Moulds, Potash, Basic Slag, Pyrites, Barley and Wheat from Europe; Perlite from Sardinia; Phosphates from North Africa.
From the Republic of Ireland	8	To load coal for the Republic of Ireland or Ingot Moulds for Europe.
From British ports in ballast	35	To load coal for the Republic of Ireland, or Ingot Moulds for Europe, or coke for a British port.
From British ports with cargo	82	Grain, Phosphates.
	186	

<sup>x</sup> includes one calling vessel and three via another British port.

(sgd.) A. DODGE

Customs & Excise.







R E P O R T

of the

Chief Public Health Inspector







To Dr.I.S.Jones,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

The following pages are intended to serve as a review of work undertaken during the year 1957. Mere figures in themselves can prove dull and uninteresting so I have endeavoured to highlight points of interest which might not otherwise be appreciated in a casual perusal of these pages.

Towards the end of the year Mr. Couling left the department to take up an appointment with a district council in Cheshire. In losing Mr. Couling I lost a colleague who was very knowledgeable and had a thorough grasp of his job.

## HOUSING

### Council House Waiting List

In my last report I merely touched on the apparent need for some form of rent adjustment in this area if Council houses are to continue to be let to those for whom they were primarily intended.

I again refer to the topic, as it may well have proved the most controversial and one of the most difficult subjects before the Council for some time. It now seems that rent adjustment is a 'must' if houses are to be built at all under our present system of contracting out to The North Eastern Housing Association Limited.

In April, 1956 there were 488 applicants on the waiting list, and this figure was reduced overnight to 296 largely by means of a questionnaire on housing sent to every applicant. Since then the last batch of 50 houses built at Wigton has been let and the number remaining on the list at the end of 1957 was 325.

Very few of these applicants could afford to pay the exorbitant rents which new houses would command, especially those built without subsidy, and so local authority house building has come to a standstill in this and many other areas.

Meanwhile the waiting lists inevitably grow bigger.



By means of rent adjustment however, and the utilisation of certain slum clearance subsidies and subsidies due on one-bedroom houses for old people, it should be possible to resume building in a modest way.

It is worthy of note that when housing subsidies were first introduced they were intended to alleviate the lot of those less able to afford the economic rents prevailing. The practice of subsidising all Council houses became commonplace, but it is significant that more and more authorities are reverting to the original intention.

On the question of housing for the old folk I should like to express an opinion. As the officer responsible for interviewing housing applicants I feel strongly the necessity for a bigger share of the housing allocation to meet the deserving needs of this class. Two Ministry circulars received during the year contained a reference to the subject.

Since the war 759 houses have been erected for this Council, only nine of which are dwellings commonly referred to as old people's bungalows.

The special subsidy offered by the Ministry as an inducement to local authorities to build this type of dwelling applies only to one-bedroom bungalows, whereas the Council are strongly in favour of a second bedroom. This second bedroom has obvious advantages, even so I favour the more economic type plan advocated by the Ministry and widely adopted throughout the country. I suppose it is a case of cutting the coat according to the cloth available, but the main thing is to get the bungalows built. It is quite obvious to me that some of those who regularly enquire at the office about this kind of accommodation will never be privileged to occupy it. Time marches on !

I am also asked from time to time if it is possible to have bungalows without gardens to them. Surely it is, and desirable too in some cases.

On the availability of sites for general housing needs there is room for 205 houses on 10 sites already in the possession of The North Eastern Housing Association Limited. The only obstacle to the building of at least some of these houses would appear to be the need for some form of rent adjustment.



## Restoration of unfit houses

Formal orders under the Housing Acts were cancelled in respect of ten houses, the owners having restored the property to a state suitable for habitation.

## Requisitioned property

A circular from the Ministry requires that all such property shall be released from requisition by March, 1960.

There were only two remaining properties of this type in the area last year and the tenant of one was rehoused by the Council. The tenant of the other had previously been offered accommodation and declined.

## Squatters

Three families of squatters remain in the area, all of them at Aspatria.

Irate applicants for housing accommodation, those in dire straits, still use the threat of squatting. Their argument is that it is farcical for houses to stand empty when there is a pressing housing need. Even so houses must continue to be condemned if there is to be progress. It is a case of being cruel to be kind. To relax in this direction would result in an overall lowering of standards which would ultimately be to the detriment of the majority.

## The Rent Act, 1957

This much criticised and controversial Act took effect during the latter half of the year.

Only eight applications for certificates of disrepair were received and in two cases the landlords gave formal undertakings to meet the tenants' demands.

Of the remaining six, four certificates of disrepair were issued and two undertakings given, but this action overlapped into 1958.



## Improvement Grants

Thirtyfour applications for grants were considered by the Council, although 98 cases were actually investigated on site during the year. This compares with 24 applications and 76 enquiries in the previous year. The number of visits for all purposes was 288.

Twentyseven applications were finalised resulting in 29 units of accommodation. Two houses were made into four living units, attracting two grants each, another house was converted from a barn, and two houses were made into one.

In the year under review 17 units of accommodation were owner-occupied and 12 were tenanted.

The total approved expenditure on these works amounted to £18,807 of which £8,300 was borne by way of grant. Of this £8,300 the ratepayer pays twentyfive per cent and the taxpayer seventyfive per cent.

### IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED BY MEANS OF GRANT UNDER

#### SECTION 20, HOUSING ACT, 1949

Conversions to water carriage system.....	15
By way of septic tanks.....	13
Connections to Council's sewers.....	2
New drains laid.....	28
Water closets provided.....	33
Washbasins and sinks provided.....	47
New ranges and grates provided.....	37
Hot water laid on.....	27
Electricity installations.....	11
Additional bedrooms provided.....	8
Kitchens provided.....	7
Kitchens improved.....	19
Bathrooms built.....	8
Bathrooms converted from other accommodation.....	20
New floors laid.....	44
Windows enlarged.....	23
Food stores provided.....	10
Rooms heightened.....	8
Paths provided.....	4
Fuel stores provided.....	4
Conversions to housing accommodation.....	1



# HOUSING STATISTICS

1.	Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :-	
(1)(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	40
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose..	181
(2)(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.....	11
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose..	11
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	11
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	29
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :-	
	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.....	37
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-	
(1)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	1
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(i)	By owners.....	1
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	-
(2)	Proceedings under Public Health Act :-	
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.....	1
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-	
(i)	By owners.....	1
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	-



(3)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	4
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	2
(c)	Number of Demolition Orders revoked - dwellinghouses made fit.....	4
(d)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which undertakings were accepted by the Council.....	15
(e)	Number of undertakings cancelled - dwellinghouses made fit.....	5
(4)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
(a)	Number of Closing Orders made.....	1
(b)	Number of Closing Orders determined, the accommodation having been rendered fit.....	1
(5)	Proceedings under section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :-	
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	7
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses closed in pursuance of Closing Orders.....	5
(c)	Number of Closing Orders determined, the accommodation having been rendered fit.....	1
4.	Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding :-	
(1)(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	4
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein.....	4
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein.....	30
(2)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	1
(3)(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	4
(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases.....	25



## FOOD AND DRUGS

### Meat Inspection

For the second consecutive year I am pleased to report that no case of tuberculosis amongst bovine animals was found in this area. I regard this as a most important and gratifying piece of information.

A suspected case of tuberculosis in a sheep proved false on closer examination at the laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

During the year a pig pen was installed at the abattoir. Pigs are anaesthetised prior to slaughter and the operation proved difficult without the assistance afforded by the pen.

### Registration of Premises under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Five ice cream retailers' premises and one manufactory were added to the register.

Seventeen premises are used for the making of sausages, potted and pickled meats, but some of these proved unsuitable according to the new food hygiene regulations and fresh accommodation had to be sought and made up to standard. As much of the constructional work was only finalised in 1958 further comment should await the report for that year.

### Food Hygiene Regulations

At the time of writing initial inspections have just been completed of all known establishments at which food for human consumption is sold, stored or handled. This includes licensed premises, residential hotels, way-side houses which exhibit signs such as 'Teas', 'Bed and Breakfast', etc., chemists' shops, as well as the more obvious and conventional food shops and premises.

Of 73 notices served only 29 had been complied with at the close of the year but the service of notices continues and many have been complied with since. Second visits are now in progress and those traders who fail to co-operate will be reported to the Council with a view to more drastic action being taken.



The Ministry has requested information concerning the types of food premises in the area. This is given in the summary below but I may wish to revise the categories for another year. In these days, and particularly in rural areas, so many businesses are of a general or mixed character that it is difficult to be specific in describing the nature of the business carried on. In such cases resort has been had to the term 'mixed' business.

Mixed businesses.....	46
Grocers.....	36
Cafes and snackbars.....	25
Sweets.....	21
Confectioners.....	17
Butchers.....	17
Greengrocers.....	5
Fish and Chips.....	6
Wet Fish.....	3
Ice Cream Manufacturers.....	9
✕ Ice Cream Retailers.....	73
Dairies.....	10
Bakehouses.....	21
Food Preparation Rooms.....	17
Hotels.....	10
Boarding Houses.....	7
Works' Canteens.....	10
School Dining Centres.....	22
School Canteens.....	13
Licensed premises.....	64
Chemists.....	7

✕ All but one of these premises are connected with other businesses.



## CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED, AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

## AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR AND PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows:	Cows:	Calves:	Sheep and Lambs:	Pigs:
Number killed (a)	1067	21	11	2521	1778
Number killed (b)	263	-	-	243	78
Total.....	1330	21	11	2764	1856
Number inspected (a)	1067	21	11	2521	1778
Number inspected (b)	263	-	-	243	78
Total.....	1330	21	11	2764	1856
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	2	3	3	52	2
Percentage.....	0.15	14.29	2.73	1.81	0.11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	33	-	1	2	4
Percentage.....	2.26	-	0.91	0.07	0.22
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	-	-	-	1
Percentage.....	-	-	-	-	0.05
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	-	-	-	-	29
Percentage.....	-	-	-	-	1.56
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned..	-	-	-	-	-

NOTE

(a) = work carried out at the Public Abattoir  
(b) = work carried out at Private Slaughterhouses.



PRINCIPAL GROUNDS OF CONDEMNATION OF CARCASSES AND OFFAL  
AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR AND PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Bovine lbs.	Calves lbs.	Sheep lbs.	Pigs lbs.
Tuberculosis.....	-	-	-	824
Cirrhosis.....	132	-	-	6
Abscesses.....	194	47	15	-
Parasitic.....	36	-	49	-
Injury.....	1180	10	57	-
Pericarditis.....	10	-	-	-
Fevered.....	700	-	513	-
Difficult parturition....	1300	-	-	-
Joint ill.....	-	48	-	-
Immaturity.....	-	37	-	-
Septic pneumonia.....	-	-	608	-
Dropsy.....	-	-	90	-
Moribund.....	-	-	575	-
Decomposition.....	-	-	380	-
Emaciation.....	-	-	213	-
Peritonitis.....	-	-	70	-
Actinobacillosis.....	-	-	90	-
Gangrene.....	-	-	52	-
Anaemia.....	-	-	45	-
Wet and illset.....	-	-	612	-
Pneumonia.....	-	-	56	-
Rupture and wet.....	-	-	-	48
Swine erysipelas.....	-	-	-	260
Totals.....	3552	142	3425	938



PARTICULARS OF FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN  
CONSUMPTION AT PLACES OTHER THAN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Gammon.....	47 lbs.
Canned Meat.....	185 lbs.
" Milk.....	43 lbs.
" Vegetables.....	64 lbs.
" Fish.....	28 lbs.
" Fruit.....	314 lbs.
Liquid Egg.....	14 lbs.
Yeastless Ruskit.....	2 cwts.
Fish Cakes.....	62 no.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING RESULTS

Grade:	Local manu- facture by heat treat- ment method:	Local manu- facture by 'cold mix' method:	Wrapped or cartoned proprietary brands:
1	5	7	6
2	5	-	1
3	4	-	-
4	1	-	-



## REFUSE REMOVAL

Considerable improvement in the condition of the prominent coast road refuse disposal site at Blooming Heather has resulted since the appointment of a part-time attendant. Potters who frequently camp on open land opposite this tip prove a nuisance, sorting amongst the refuse after it has been tidied.

Collections from a number of additional properties were arranged at the request of ratepayers.

Waste paper salvage still continues to be collected, although the yield for the year was the lowest since the inception of the scheme in the early years of the war. Even so I feel the effort is worthwhile, as much of this paper etc. would be to handle at the refuse tips, where it is less manageable and likely to prove a nuisance, than at the salvage depot. The remainder might contribute to the despoiling of the countryside.

One reason for the small yield is the inability of the mills to dispose of the normal throughput. The mill we deal with is a board mill and soft paper can only be utilised in small quantities, otherwise it gives rise to a ripple effect on the card boards. In view of this considerable quantities of news sheet and similar paper salvage is burned at the refuse tips.



COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING WEIGHT OF WASTE  
PAPER SALVAGED

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>
1942.....	158	10
1943.....	131	12
1944.....	131	17
1945.....	80	3
1946.....	104	6
1947.....	77	7
1948.....	105	3
1949.....	117	13
1950.....	91	10
1951.....	102	14
1952.....	71	9
1953.....	42	6
1954.....	44	0
1955.....	37	5
1956.....	49	19
1957.....	28	8
	<u>1374</u>	<u>2</u>

The income from the 1957 yield  
amounted to £198.16s.0d.



## RODENT CONTROL

As the Council's organisation becomes better known, more and more requests for the services of the rodent operative are received.

During the year 105 houses were inspected as a result of notification, 61 of which were found to be infested by rats. Four business premises were similarly inspected, together with 137 under routine survey. Of these 22 were infested by rats.

Of 1019 agricultural properties visited 193 showed positive evidence of infestation by rats. In the previous year 875 and 277 were the respective figures, which would seem to indicate the exercise of greater care on the part of a good many farmers.

Fortyseven notices were served under Section 6 of the Act as being the best way of dealing with an area of land largely sub-divided into allotments. By this method action is taken by the local authority on behalf of all affected parties. To have taken action under Section 4, which involves service of notices requiring appropriate control measures by the individuals themselves would hardly have proved effective. Some would have made a worthwhile attempt to rid their land and buildings of rats whilst others would probably have shown indifference. In any case the use of varying methods and poisons is to be discouraged in such circumstances.

Twenty sewerage schemes were examined and pre-baited with harless bait to ascertain the extent of any infestation. Arising out of this infestations were indicated at Fletchertown and Wigton and appropriate control measures were put in hand.

Fourteen weeks of the operative's time during the year was taken up with other duties and sick leave.

The 5-cwt. Austin van used in this service covered 4,752 miles, and gave every satisfaction at reasonable cost, only normal servicing being required.

The following table, which is a copy of the annual return to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food relating to the year ended 31st March, 1958 gives further details of work undertaken in pest destruction. For convenience all reference to rodent control in this report is related to this period.



# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Local Auth- ority	Dwell- ing Houses (inc. Council Houses)	All other (inc. Bus- iness Premises)	Agric- ultural
No. of properties in Local Authority's district.....	39	5,947	762	1,151
No. of properties in- spected as a result of:				
(a) Notification.....	-	105	4	57
(b) Survey under the Act	14	-	137	962
(c) Otherwise.....	25	-	-	-
Total inspections carried out inc. re-inspections.	183	183	160	1,374
No. of properties in- spected which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats     { Major .....	-	-	-	-
{ Minor .....	14	61	22	193
(b) Mice     { Major .....	-	-	-	-
{ Minor .....	-	-	1	1
No. of infested pro- perties treated by L.A..	14	61	4	51
Total treatments carried out including re- treatments.....	45	61	4	51
No. of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:				
(a) Treatment.....	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural work.....	-	-	-	-
No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act.....	-	-	-	-
Legal Proceedings.....	-	-	-	-
Number of 'Block' control schemes carried out.....			2	



## OFFENSIVE TRADE WASTES

### The Milk Marketing Board

As happened last year a considerable surplus of liquid whey had to be disposed of from the Board's creamery at Aspatria.

Resort to a means of disposal which was quite unacceptable to the Council, resulting in complaints from the public, had to be stopped. The liquid was discharged into a water course at Brayton and the operation may have appeared harmless enough at the time, but putrefaction soon caused trouble farther afield. Resort to tidal disposal at Allonby as in the previous year relieved the critical situation.

Plans were later submitted by the Board for a modern whey drying plant designed to solve the problem for the future.

### Messrs. British Rayophane Limited

The aerial nuisance associated with the manufacturing process carried on here in the making of viscose papers was referred to several times during the year.

Visits to the firm were made to ascertain the up-to-date position and in an endeavour to accelerate progress.

It is necessary to measure the volume of gases to be treated before any worthwhile scheme of treatment can be implemented. To this end the firm are hooding the acid baths on one of their four machines. The cost of even this initial step is rather staggering, due to the limited choice of materials capable of withstanding the destructive effects of the acid vapours. Serious delays in delivery times have affected progress to date.

Having said this in defence of the firm in appreciation of the difficulties and expense they face over this problem, one can only hope they may not be guilty of procrastination. I think it is due to the long suffering public of Wigton, who have had to put up with this aerial nuisance for so many years, that available knowledge and experience of remedial measures should be applied to ameliorate conditions locally.

I think it is now generally known that no complete remedy exists, but the public must appreciate the fact that the siting of industry in urban communities often has drawbacks which simply have to be accepted. We certainly cannot do without the industry.



## THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The seven principal factories in the area have been visited in connection with the implications of the new Act.

Mechanical stoking is the general rule, but grit arresters are the exception.

Surprisingly enough, the modern factories at Aspatria of Messrs. M. Hackney & Co. Ltd., and Messrs. Larma Ltd. have hand fired boilers, four at the former and three at the latter establishment.

Highfield House, the County Council Public Welfare Institution at Wigton has two of its three boilers operated manually, and one of them is occasionally a source of trouble to neighbouring householders. I am led to believe that the age of the plant does not warrant any heavy expenditure on modernisation.

In an extensive and beautiful rural area like this, smoke nuisance is not a serious matter, and in any case by far the greatest nuisance arises from domestic chimneys. This is partly due to their numerical superiority and partly to the established practice of burning bituminous fuel in open grates. Despite all the high pressure advertising and propaganda which has gone on in recent years advocating closed stoves and other smokeless fuel appliances, the preference remains, and this despite the shocking waste in fuel and money induced by the normal type of open grate.

An Englishman still likes to watch the flames flickering around the black diamonds in the hearth, and I believe his wife likes it even better !



# SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Housing Act, 1936.....	161
Housing Act, 1949/52.....	288
Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.....	11
Rent Act, 1957.....	13
Public Health Act, 1936.....	193
Housing defects.....	45
Otherwise.....	148
Drains examined and/or tested.....	106
Building Byelaws.....	121
Housing applications.....	237
Food and Drugs Act, 1955.....	1293
Food preparation rooms.....	35
Ice cream premises.....	65
Distributors of milk.....	1
Food shops.....	164
Food hygiene.....	181
Vans.....	3
Public abattoir.....	599
Private slaughterhouses.....	221
Knackers Yard.....	2
Unsound food in shops.....	20
Registration of premises.....	6
Factories Act, 1937/48.....	17
Refuse removal.....	82
Refuse tips.....	69
Complaints regarding service.....	13
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.....	1434
Sewers.....	44
Other than sewers.....	1390
Camping sites and moveable dwellings.....	56
Infectious disease.....	23
Shops Act, 1950.....	120
Salvage.....	8
Unclassified.....	169



# SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

	<u>Served</u>	<u>Complied with</u>
<u>Statutory</u>		
Housing Act, 1936 - Section 9.	1	1
Public Health Act, 1936 - - Section 39	1	1
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 - Section 6...	47	47
	<hr/> 49	<hr/> 49

<u>Informal</u>		
Public Health Act, 1936.....	34	49
Housing Act, 1936.....	9	9
Food and Drugs Act, 1955.....	73	29
Factories Act, 1937/48.....	3	4
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.....	3	4
Shops Act, 1950.....	1	-
	<hr/> 123	<hr/> 95

Robert C. Blackburn  
Chief Public Health Inspector.







